

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
HELD TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1985, 8:00 P.M.  
IN ROOM H-762, SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairperson Scott White called the Meeting to order at 8:25 p.m.

PRESENT:

Co-Presidents:

Ron Hiscox  
Michael Judson

Commerce:

Janice Domaratzki  
Elizabeth Laett  
Jenny Rice  
Shirleen Weekes

Arts and Science:

Maria Calderone  
Adrian Chomenko (10:00)  
Milva D'Aronco  
Carla Grodis  
Andy King  
Maki Kusano  
Chris Mostovac  
Mark Pink  
Heather Rerrie  
Karen Takacs

Engineering:

Jonathan Jolivet

ABSENT:

Arts and Science: Jennifer Stark  
Engineering: Dan Artola (W/R), Andrew Haberl, Martin Pereira (W/R)  
Fine Arts: David Etherington, Page Lopez

Advisors to the Board Present: Joel Max Elkin, Liaison V.P.; Aleem Lakhanl, Student Services V.P.; Francois Desrosiers, External V.P.; Peter Wheeland, Communications V.P.; Ruth Tovim, Physical Resources V.P.; Brian Weihs, Finance V.P.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of 37th Meeting:

This item was postponed until the next Meeting.

4. Chairperson's Remarks:

Scott White stated that the Board Meetings would be held as per the schedule on the Agenda distributed for this the 39th Meeting. He further stated that he had advised the CRO that a commerce seat had become available because of a resignation and requested that the CRO open another commerce seat.

5. Discussion of "Certain Problems within the Association":

Motion 239, passed at the 38th Meeting of the Board, states "BE IT RESOLVED THAT an Emergency Board of Directors Meeting be held next Tuesday, October 15, 1985 at 8:00 p.m. at Sir George Williams Campus in order to discuss certain problems that exist within the functioning of the Association. The Meeting will be closed to the public, with the exception of Executives and past Executives of this year."

The Chairperson began the discussion by asking who should commence. Karen Takacs felt that the Executives should start to which Maki Kusano and Andy King questioned the whereabouts of all the Executives. The Chairperson asked the Executives for their reports, and there was a brief interlude during which everyone read the report submitted by Francois Desrosiers.

Mark Pink stated that he was ignorant of the situation at CUSA and would like to have specific details. Francois Desrosiers expressed the sentiment that if time was devoted to delving into specifics, the Board would be unable to deal with the greater perspective for which it was meeting. He continued by stating that he felt that the problem was one of communications, that there were not enough channels of communication. In his view, the problem is structural rather than personal.

(8:45 p.m.)

Milva D'Aronco put forward the belief that all three parties (the Board, the Executives and the Co-Presidents) are responsible for the problem. She felt that the Board spends too much time on ratification and appointments, and that a fuller, more diversified agenda is needed.

Jonathan Jolivet stated that he felt left out--whenever he asked what was going on, he was shunned aside.

Maria Calderone said that she is fed-up with apathy towards CUSA, with the lack of knowledge about CUSA, and with student accusations of CUSA ("stealing our money").

Peter Wheeland stated that he felt that the issues were unclear, that the malaise had no concrete form. Furthermore, the Board, the Executives and the Co-Presidents do not know what each other's role is, and this lack of role definition and the lack of communication is where the trouble stems from.

(9:00 p.m.)

Andy King told of his reason for entering office, that he was seeking to redress problems facing CUSA. He felt that CUSA has a presence because it is supposed to act on behalf of the student populace, but that the perception of CUSA is that it is disorganized and does not have its act together.

Janice Domaratzki pointed out that there is no co-ordination and she felt that everyone had been working on his/her own tangent.

Carla Grodis stated that CUSA is viewed as "sloppy", the office is in disarray, and CUSA has a bad public image. Furthermore, she felt that

there is no unity at CUSA, no thought is given to any goals, there is no cohesion--the "we're all in this together" spirit is missing, and there has been a breakdown in communications.

Karen Takacs expressed the need to re-define the role of the Board of Directors. She felt that there has been a lack of respect for the Board and its achievements--and that Ron Hiscox and Mike Judson are the greatest perpetrators of this disrespect. She agreed with comments made earlier about CUSA's bad public image. She would like to have the Board become more involved in what the Executives are doing. She also stated that the appointments' process has to be looked at.

Ruth Tovim expressed the view that the Co-Presidents are unwilling to assume leadership and that they have not been acting as a co-ordinating body between the Executive. She stated that there is a need for stronger leadership and she felt that Mike Judson and Ron Hiscox have been reluctant to fill their role.

Jonathan Jolivet commented that CUSA is seen as a joke by the Administration. Francois Desrosiers came to CUSA's defence stating that "joke or not" CUSA represents 22,000 students who can be mobilized whatever the Administration may think--there is a will at work and CUSA will not be stepped on.

(9:15 p.m.)

Aleem Lakhani said that although difficulties must be recognized, CUSA must work to meet the students' objectives. CUSA must look at what it wants to do and move ahead. CUSA must reflect the priorities of the students. There has been too much introspection.

Peter Wheeland returned to the topic of the communications problem and stated that this lack of communication does not stop at the Co-Presidents, it goes on throughout the executive. He felt that every Board Member and Executive must assume a leadership role. CUSA must look at itself and criticize the way that it has been handling the issues--backing off, being afraid to face the issues. He thought that the Board would have to decide what it wanted to do. He felt the need for an interpretation of the constitution vis-a-vis "institutions" roles.

Jonathan Jolivet commented that the directors should try to keep office hours.

(9:30 p.m.)

Ron Hiscox stated that these questions have come up before, in particular before the campaign. There has been the feeling that the Co-Presidents and the Executives are too powerful. CUSA is made up of parts and each part does their share. He agreed that there are problems and, indeed, legitimate questions; however he was not of the opinion that the Board should be unified. He sees it as necessary to divide the communication/unity problem. He remarked that there is trouble because parts are flourishing on their own, and it is demoralizing and unfair to come down on CUSA. He felt that it was wrong to say morale is down because of 20 people on the sixth floor. He sees a potential problem in "overcorrection". He expressed the view that the Executive is not a decision-making body, that there are not many questions on major issues.

People should feel free to ask questions.

(9:45 p.m.)

Ron Hiscox continued his remarks. He went on to say that he became fed up not because of CUSA but because of himself. He understood the criticism and felt that the question of the Co-Presidents' shirking responsibility could be raised. He stated that the communications problem has caused problems; however, it is not the Co-Presidents' position to dictate. CUSA is a volunteer organization and the people are here because of a sense of duty--ultimately the question of the accountability of the various Executives remains.

Milva D'Aronco commented that the idea of diffusing power is ridiculous. The lack of communication that is presently felt leads to power being concentrated (e.g. CUSASET). Board members cannot ask questions when they are not aware of what is going on--a unified body is necessary.

(10:00 p.m.)

Jonathan Jolivet offered the example of the engineers.

Chris Mostovac pointed to a contradiction in Ron Hiscox's remarks. He felt that it was in the Co-Presidents' job to give momentum to "sink or swim". He expressed the view that it was time to re-define "leadership" and he called for a change of management style.

(10:15 p.m.)

Karen Takacs agreed on the whole with Chris Mostovac.

Joel Max Elkin stated that CUSA lacks overall direction and needs to provide goals. He questioned why anyone would want to show up at Executive or Directors meetings the way things are.

Peter Wheeland expressed the view that everyone is responsible and everyone should take the blame. CUSA must set goals and work together.

Ron Hiscox stated that Chris Mostovac's point was well taken. However, as a whole, the Executive can be clear as to what CUSA is doing, and things are not all that bad yet.

Mike Judson interjected that this debate could go on forever--the bottom line is "what has been done". He felt that quite a lot had been achieved and that the record speaks for itself.

Milva D'Aronco returned to the topic of the lack of responsibility of the Co-Presidents to the Board, and she felt that they had not been willing to change or take advice, and they had a condescending attitude. She commented on their unsuitable attitude in general towards the Administration, the Board, the faculty, etc.

(10:30 p.m.)

Carla Grodis agreed with Milva D'Aronco and felt utterly disillusioned, not listened to, and that everything had been a waste of time.

Francois Desrosiers questioned who did they think they were to ask a person

39th MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1985, 8:00 P.M.

Page 5

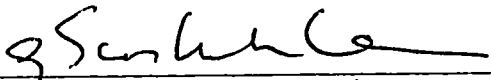
to change his personality. He commented that he did not think they would come up with a solution this evening--it is going to be a long process.

Peter Wheeland commented that there had been a lack of dialogue, there had only been monologues.

Ron Hiscox stated that Co-Presidents, like other Directors, have to answer to the students, not the Board. He said that it might look like the Co-Presidents are not paying attention to the Board, but this is only because they do not argue with how the Board feels. He further stated that their personal management is their own business, and went on to say that the Co-Presidents will not change their leadership style because their obligation is to the student body.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

  
G. Scott White, Chairperson

  
Alex Commodari, Recording Secretary